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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND.]

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer.

Gracious Father, help us not to lose our sense of humor. Free us to laugh at ourselves when we do the wrong thing at the right time or the right thing at an inappropriate time. Sometimes we say things that make us cringe when we review the day. When we take ourselves too seriously we tighten up and become tense. Little issues become so crucial we miss the big issues confronting us. We worry about what others think of us.

Relieve us of our assumed importance and help us realize they seldom do think of us. Forgive us for all the good energy we waste on checking our own popularity pulse. Make us so secure in Your love that we can lighten up, and then, listen up to what You want us to be and do about what really matters. Make us carefree, but never careless. In the name of Jesus who taught us that by worrying we could not add one cubit to our stature, but by seeking first Your kingdom all things that are truly important would be ours as well. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Again, I want to express our appreciation for the wonderful words of our Chaplain, as he offers the blessing in this institution and helps us maintain our balance as we do our jobs.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, we will immediately begin considering S. 1745, the Department of Defense authorization bill. Under the terms of the consent agreement reached last week, Senators may debate the bill this morning. However, no amendments will be in order prior to 2:15 p.m. today.

I hope the Senate can make substantial progress on the DOD bill today and this evening. I expect to complete action on that bill this week. All Senators can, therefore, expect rollcall votes throughout the day.

The Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet. As a reminder to all Senators, at 9:30 on Thursday, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Alan Greenspan to be Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Under a consent order, a vote will occur at 2 p.m. Thursday on the Greenspan nomination, and that will be followed by votes on the other nominees to the Federal Reserve Board.

I also hope that this week the Senate may act on legislation regarding the church burnings, Mr. President. We are very close to a bipartisan resolution on this matter. We need to express the outrage of the Senate, and we need to make sure that our law enforcement officials have whatever tools they need to investigate these despicable acts and take appropriate action to find the guilty parties and help bring an end to these activities across our country.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I want to say, before I yield the floor, that I am very pleased that we are ready to go now with the Department of Defense authorization bill. The committee has been ready to go for about 3 weeks. There have been some problems that are being ironed out with other com-

mittees. I know that in the years I have been on the Armed Services Committee this has been the most cooperative atmosphere we have had in the committee.

I think we have a good bill. I know there are going to be some very serious amendments offered and debated. We will have plenty of opportunity to express our concerns and to change the bill in ways that Members feel strongly about.

I commend, again, the chairman of the committee, Senator THURMOND from South Carolina, for the leadership he has shown on this bill. He said that we were not going to wait way into the summer and get tangled up into the appropriations process. We are going to have the authorization bill ready. He did that. The bill was ready by the Memorial Day recess. I appreciate him and have enjoyed so much working with him. I know he is raring to go, so, Mr. Chairman, it is yours.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed, for debate only, to the consideration of S. 1745, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1745) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Armed Services, with amendments, as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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